point in the Ministry, it should be possible to identify that person or those persons and go into the details of why so many files have been pending at that particular point for such a long time. Will the Minister kindly take up this matter, according to what he has described just now and show us what is the result because at one place if this is tackled, probably, delays will be minimised in future.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I am thankful to the senior Member of the House. He stood to support me. I am very happy. From my experience of one year in the Welfar Ministry, I have tried my best to push through and accelerate many schemes. But whenever I found an attitude of non-cooperation, that psyche is in my mind. I cannot say everything about the details here.

But certainly, if a committee of three or four MPs is appointed, I will show them the file about the callousness and all that.

My friend has asked about the supervision and inspection. I have taken action against 28 NGOs and some action is in the pipeline .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : It is a very serious question about identifying persons from bureaucracy. Shri Narasimha Raoji has raised a very pertinent question saying that if the identified officers in the identified projects of a particular area are handled properly, then the entire problem could be solved ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Only I know it as to how I got deposited Rs. 10 crore for the Ambedkar House at 26 Alipore. My point is, if a committee is appointed, I will show it the details ....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : My question is very small. The funds meant for minorities.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : That question is over I have asked to raise the next question.

[English]

That question is over.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : I would like to know whether it is a fact that this fund is only for such minorities that are educationally backward. It is a very important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not permitted to ask the question. You can write to the Minister on this.

Demands of Disabled

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*524. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the disabled persons held demonstrations in New Delhi in the month of March,1997 against the injustice being done to them and to meet their grievances;

(b) if so, the main grievances of the disabled; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement-I is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) A statement-II is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Joint Action Committee for the Rights of Disabled (JACORD) *vide* their representation dated 5th March, 1997 have projected certain demands as follows :

(a) The contents of the National Trust for Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill be made public and that a consultation be held with the representatives of the disability sector, particularly those from the field of mental retardation and cerebral palsy.

(b) The notification regarding the constitution of the Central Coordination Committee be withdrawn and fresh CCC be constituted in consultation with the representatives of the disability section.

(c) The Chief Commissioner be appointed.

(d) The allocation for the disability division of Welfare Ministry be increased to Rs. 100 crore and the allocation for the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation be increased to Rs. 200 crore in Budget 1997-98. Appropriate allocations may be made in other key Ministries also.

(e) An allocation of at least Rs. 100 crore be made in the Rail Budget 1997-98.

(f) The so-called "Handicapped Welfare Department" of the Welfare Ministry be renamed as the "Disability Division of the said Ministry".

Statement-II

The following steps are being taken by the Ministry to remove the grievances:

(1) The contents of the Bill for setting up of the National Trust for persons with Mentral Retardation and Cerebral Palsy are being circulated among the Non-Governmental Agencies working in this sector so that the Bill can be finalised after consultations.

(2) The Central Coordination Committee has been notified on 21-02-97 after the members other than the ex-officio members were carefully and finally selected. There is no provision for withdrawal of the notification.

(3) Regarding appointment of the Chief Commission, this is being processed and is at a final stage.

(4) After vigorous pursuation with the planning commission, the allocation proposed for the Handicapped Welfare Division of the Welfare Ministry has been increased to Rs. 107.04 crore (Plan) during 1997-98 which includes Rs. 28.00 crore for the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. Other Ministries have also been requested to make appropriate provisions in their budgetary allocations.

(5) A formal proposal for renaming of the Handicapped Welfare Division of the Ministry as Disability Division is being processed.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, the activists of disabled have threatened to intensify their agitation or even resort to legal batle if the Government does not meet their demands before the Budget Session. They have formed a joint action committee for the rights of the disabled, comprising of organisations representing different disabilities. This Organisation has given an ultimatum to the Government to fulfil their demands, otherwise they will be forced to take drastic action. So, to what extent, have the demands been considered or are likely to be accepted and implemented?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The Hon. Member has referred to an ultimatum given by an organisation comprising of persons afflicted with disability. They have given me a six - point charter. If I go through these six points one by one, it will take a lot of time.

About the first point relating to establishment of a National Trust for the Handicapped, the proposal was submitted to the Lok Sabha in December 1995. It could not be passed and it got lapsed. I am again writing to the Cabinet to bring the same Bill before the Lok Sabha.

The Central Coordination Committee has been notified.

Regarding the appointment of the Chief Commissioner for Handicapped, I had appointed a Search Committee and now within 15 days or so, the committee will be appointed.

The other two demands have been accepted.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The non. Minister had given an assurance two months earlier that to a commissioner would be appointed with in 15 days .... *(Interruptions)* The appointment has not been made for the last five years.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Shri Joshi, please listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, please give him the reply only.

12.00 hrs

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Shri Joshi, you are not differentiating between commission and commissioner. I am talking about the commissioner. But he could not follow the point. I shall make him understand later on. There is a demand regarding Railways. I am writing to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in this regard. ....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Question Hour is over.

.... *(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : How is it, Sir? In the history of Lok Sabha, it has never happened that only three questions were taken up. So, the fourth question should be completed. Only three questions have been taken up today. Is that all.....? *(Interruptions)*

I must be given a chance to speak on this because it is a very important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can I allow you? The Question Hour is over. We will allow a Half an hour discussion on this question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman, you are the Chair, you are the boss and you can permit me .... *(Interrruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

..... *(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : So, are you permitting a Half an Hour disucssion on this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you give a notice for it.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : All right, Sir, I will also write that the Chairman has agreed to allow a Half an Hour discussion on this question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of Sugarcane

*525. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of sugarcane is declining in some regions of the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugarcane produced during each of the last three years in each State against the target fixed;

(c) the reasons for such shortfall, if any;

(d) whether the shortfall in the production of sugarcane has affected the production of sugar during 1996-97;

(e) if so, the extent to which the production of sugar has been affected;

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the shortfall in the production of sugarcane during 1997-98; and

(g) the amount provided to each State for 1997-98 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The production of sugarcane, despite fluctuations, has been showing an increasing trend over the years and it reached a record level of 282.9 million tonnes in 1995-96. The production of sugarcane during 1996-97 is, however, estimated to be 267.5 million tonnes. A statement giving State-wise trargets and production of sugarcane as also the area during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 is attached.

(c) The slight decrease in production of sugarcane in 1996-97 is a part of cyclical fluctuations and is attributed to lower area coverage owing to prolonged crushing during the last season resulting in non-realease of land for cultivation of sugarcane in the subsequent year.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar has been affected due to the shortfall in the production of sugarcane. The production of sugar during 1996-97 (October-September) sugar season upto 31st March, 1997, has been 106.05 lakh tonnes as compared to 117.27 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of the last season i.e. 1995-96.

(f) In order to increase the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is being implemented since 1995-96 and is likely to continue in 1997-98.

(g) The Statewise details of financial allocation under SUBACS for 1997-98 are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise Targets and Production of Sugarcane as well as Area for the year 1994-95 to 1996-97

Area : '000' Hects.
Prod : Lakh Tonnes

State	1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		
		Production			Production			Production	
	Area	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	209	135	160	214	140	152	203	152	145
Assam	36	20	15	36	22	15	36	22	15
Bihar	123	85	57	124	85	56	124	90	56
Gujarat	155	105	108	162	110	105	150	115	104